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OLOGICAL UNION

ST. PETER

"You did not see him, yet you love him; and still without seeing him, you are already filled with a joy so glorious that it cannot be described, because you believe; and you are sure of the end to which your faith looks forward, that is, the salvation of your souls."

I Peter 1:8-9



ST. PAUL

"If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever. Love does not come to an end. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face."

**I Corinthians
13:3, 8, 12**

WHY DO YOU ASK LORD?

From the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, we know that so often the Lord asks questions of his followers. To St. Peter, he addressed the most heartfelt words: "Peter do you love me?" He asked no other apostle this grand question. Why Peter? Perhaps because Peter had such a temper, was so very impulsive that the Lord in asking him repeatedly, "Do you love me?", pushed him to the limit of his limited patience and pride. "Yes! Of course I do love

you! Why do you ask, again, and again, and again, and again?"

To St. Paul, he put the question: "Why do you persecute me?" And Paul replied: "Who are you, Sir?" Physically overcome, Paul was not concerned, but mentally, in his own element at his strongest, he was dismayed not to know who it was who had the better of him.

The Lord seems to ask us questions in our weaknesses, at the moment really when we have placed our "hope" in ourselves, in the impatience and pride of Peter's strength or in the arrogance and mental agility of Paul's impressive learning.

Maybe the Lord asks us because we so rarely ask him first what can we do for him, out of love for him, with the talents he has given us. Scripture tells us that he loved us before we loved him; he chose us, we did not choose him. He always makes the first move toward us, but we are very slow to make the response to him other than in impatience for his persistence or in scorn of the simplicity of his Gospel.

Neither Petrine brawn and aggressiveness nor Pauline brains and arrogance could resist the gentle voice of the Master's call: "I am, indeed, the Son of the Living God! I am, indeed, the one whom you persecute."

Ours should be the question to the Lord: "Why do you ask, Lord? Lord, I do not love you enough, help me! Lord, I persecute you in my fellow man, convert me."

Ours should be the question, "Please, ask Lord and I will hear. Please, invite Lord, and I shall answer. Please, Lord let me hear your voice in my heart and see your image in my mind that I may love you, acknowledge you and live for you alone."

Until that time, Jesus will continue to ask us: "Do you love me? Why do you persecute me?" And until we respond with our whole life and our whole soul, we will hear his

voice and be agitated; we will see his image and not find peace.

As Peter was fleeing from Rome and his imminent death, he came to a point where he sat down and the Lord came to him, resurrected and glorious and he addressed him with his final question in Peter's earthly life. "Petre quo vadis? Peter where are you going?" The apostle was running away with his life, away from surrendering his total life to Christ at the edge of the sword. Falling down, he wept bitterly and, tradition has it that he made his about face so intently, so firmly, so totally that he left his footprint in the stone. It stands there today in a little church called "Petre, Quo Vadis?"

Pilgrim! Quo Vadis? The Lord asks. And as we do, again and again and again, we reply, "Why do you ask Lord?"

† Nathaniel

SOLIA THE HERALD

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Hierarchal Schedule

April 29, Sunday. Toledo, OH. St. George. Attended celebration for the 25th Hierarchal Anniversary of Bishop Kyrill.

May 4, Friday. Vatra. Guest lecturer at OCA Midwest Clergy Wives Retreat.

May 6, Sunday. Dearborn Hgts., MI. Sts. Peter & Paul. Divine Liturgy. Attended Family Day Dinner.

May 11, 12, 13. Dallas, TX. St. Mary. Friday: Vespers. Saturday: Consecration of new church, Divine Liturgy, Festive Banquet. Sunday: Divine Liturgy.

May 16, Wednesday. Southfield, MI. St. George Cathedral. Divine Liturgy. Festive Banquet celebrating 50th Anniversary of wedding of Fr. John and Dna. Psă. Valeria and ordination of Rev. Fr. John Ivascu to priesthood. Conferred on him the title "Priest Emeritus."

May 24, Thursday. Ascension Day. Rives Junction, MI. Dormition Monastery. Divine Liturgy.

PRAY FOR A FREE ROMANIA

SOLIA

HELPING THE CHILDREN OF ROMANIA

What was once a normal household in a quiet Detroit suburb has been transformed into a busy Fund raising office. The phone rings steadily. It usually starts around 8:00 a.m. and continues throughout the day and into the evening hours. Most callers are responding to the April 27 segment of ABC's 20/20, which poignantly depicted the plight of Romania's orphans. Some callers are desperate to adopt a child, and see Romania's overabundance of orphans as the answer to their childlessness. Others already have children but their social conscience nags at them to rescue one of these innocent victims of the Ceausescu regime. The predominant request is for any available information regarding adoption procedures in Romania. Someone from a small but devoted staff of the HELP THE CHILDREN OF ROMANIA Fund patiently explains to the caller that they have called the Fund number, and that, "Our primary purpose is to raise funds to improve the conditions in Romania's orphanages by sending food, medicines, bedding, medical supplies, etc., and by soliciting donations from large corporations and charitable foundations."



"HELP THE CHILDREN OF ROMANIA FUND"
Committee members sorting through the hundreds of pieces of mail. From left: Valerie Yova, Carol Stevens with daughter Susan, Violet Vestivich, Irene Metes, Nancy Cocariu.

When Joe and Carol (Metes) Stevens decided to jump on a plane to Romania this past January to investigate adopting a child there, they probably never dreamed that it would be the beginning of an entirely new lifestyle, and the end of their privacy. Carol and Joe entered Romania at a time when the air still echoed with the sound of the gunfire which killed thousands of Romanian citizens. What began for them as a private, family matter soon became public when a national

T.V. network asked for permission to film them from start to finish as they proceeded to adopt a child. (They were the first couple to attempt adoption after the revolution.) They were followed constantly by T.V. cameras, and the Bucharest public soon recognized them as the Americans who came to get a baby. Some were supportive; many were resentful and heckled them as they passed by on the streets.



Carol Stevens and husband Joe in Orphanage #1, Bucharest with orphan Anca.

Carol and Joe were successful in their efforts, and they returned to the U.S. on Feb. 15 with Susan Marie, a blond, blue-eyed bundle of Romanian joy. But it was not enough simply to have fulfilled their own dreams. Their nights were haunted by memories of the hundreds of children they saw in the orphanages in Bucharest. Their ears still rang with the sound of children banging themselves against their cribs because they were so starved for affection and attention. Their minds could not erase the image of the hideous bedsores on the tiny bodies, the result of inactivity and infrequent diaper changes; of the blank stares of children who do not respond because they have no one to respond to during 90% of their waking hours; and probably the most disturbing memory of all: the image of hundreds of children suffering from AIDS and dying without the comfort, care and dignity entitled to all human beings.

Carol and Joe spent many hours holding and playing with these children. No matter how much joy and fulfillment Susan Marie has brought them, they cannot erase the memories of what they saw. These memories were the motivating force in Carol's request to establish the "HELP THE CHILDREN OF ROMANIA" Fund, as a branch of the HELP FOR ROMANIA Fund, which was established by the Romanian Orthodox Episcopate after the revolution in Romania. Since receiving the go-ahead from Bishop Nathaniel, Carol's days have been totally absorbed in helping the Children of Romania.

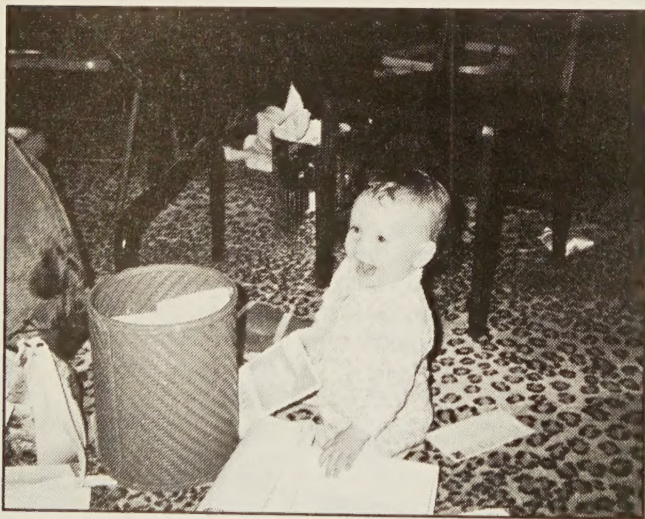
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Anticipating a public response to the airing of ABC's 20/20 segment in which their adoption story was featured, Carol set up a special phone line for inquiries. Her parents, Pete and Irene Metes (members of St. George Orthodox Cathedral in Detroit), agreed to allow the Fund line to be wired into their home, since they had three available telephone lines. Since the airing of 20/20, hundreds of viewers have called this number. These calls have been handled by Irene Metes and a small staff of volunteers. The majority of callers are seeking information on adoption in Romania. But most have made donations to the Fund in gratitude for whatever information they have received.

As the telephone calls diminish, the "HELP THE CHILDREN OF ROMANIA" Fund committee begins to focus its appeal on local churches, civic groups, corporations and foundations; and on the communities of Romanians living in the United States. They are optimistic that the thousands of Romanians living in America will be as moved to help these children as the many non-Romanians have been. In the meantime, Carol Stevens continues to spend her days playing with and feeding her new daughter (who will celebrate her first birthday in June), in between telephone calls from radio and TV stations, newspapers, corporate heads, printers, typesetters, and husband Joe asking, "How are my girls?"

V.Y.



Susan Marie Stevens, once a Romanian orphan, now a busy member of the **HELP THE CHILDREN OF ROMANIA FUND** Committee.

To help alleviate the suffering of thousands of Romanian children still living in orphanages, send donations to:

HELP THE CHILDREN OF ROMANIA
Department 771246
Detroit, MI 48277-1246

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



Rev. Fr. John and Dna. Ps. Valeria Ivascu at the 50th Anniversary celebration.

Rev. Fr. John Ivascu and Dna. Preoteasa Valeria Ivascu celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in conjunction with the ordination of Fr. Ivascu on Sunday, May 20, 1990, at St. George Cathedral, Southfield, Michigan.

His Grace, Bishop Nathaniel celebrated the Divine Liturgy. Serving with His Grace were Rev. Frs. John Ivascu, Constantin Tofan, John Surducun, Richard Grabowski, and Leonte Copacia. Using the unique event of the anniversary as a theme, the bishop spoke about the priesthood, its joys, its difficulties and the need for more men to listen to the call to the priesthood in service to God and neighbor.

A reception and dinner was offered by Father and Preoteasa to their guests. It was like a wedding reception and celebration of a new ordination! At one point, one of the speakers mentioned that although no one was present at this celebration who had been present at the original events, we were, in some way, transported to that moment by the hospitality of the celebrants.

Members of the Cathedral AROY served the meal, and members of the Cathedral prepared the food which had been provided by the Ivascu Family.

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Remarks were given by Cornel Ivascu, son of the celebrants, and by their daughter Felicia who resides in Spain. Doamna Preoteasa also came to the podium and delighted friends and guests with her wise remarks and generous words that, "You are all my family and I love all of you!" Her words of years of experience as preoteasa were clear and forceful, revealing the depth of her personal dedication to serving the Church and in raising a family, besides being a supporting and loving wife.

Remarks were made by Rev. Fr. John Surducun, a long-time friend, classmate in seminary and companion here in America to Fr. Ivascu. He made mention of the intense love of Fr. John for the Church and his priesthood, indicating that this was due to a strong faith and dedicated life of service to God.

Fr. Ivascu responded to all remarks and stated that the heart of his priesthood was his faithfulness to duty and to a strict discipline which he maintained out of dedication to and love for the priesthood. Perhaps it was a different school from which Fr. Ivascu came, and the discipline was a blessing to him in his ministry both in Europe and in the United States. Even when there was no one in attendance, Fr. John served vespers on Saturday on a regular basis.

Rev. Fr. Richard Grabowski came to offer his congratulations to the priest who had awaited his arrival in St. Paul many years ago in the middle of the night.

In his remarks, the bishop noted that Fr. John was a rare priest who dedicated himself wholeheartedly to his new homeland and to the Romanian community into which he came. Fr. Ivascu served as Spiritual Advisor for the AROY and ARFORA, was a member of the Episcopate Council and served, and still serves, on the Spiritual Consistory. He was Dean of the area and held offices in the Detroit area Orthodox Associations.

In behalf of the Episcopate and at the request of the St. George Cathedral, His Grace bestowed the title of "Priest Emeritus" on Fr. Ivascu and presented him with an appropriate scroll of honor.

Father John Ivascu was ordained October 26, 1940, by the late Archbishop Vasile Lazarescu (Caransebes) and served in Romanian parishes in the Banat until his coming to the United States in 1958. He studied at the Theological Institute in Caransebes.

He was assigned to St. Mary parish, St. Paul, Minnesota and in 1967, to St. George Cathedral, Southfield, until his retirement in 1981.

He and Dna. Ps. Valeria were married in St. George Church, Vlaskovac, Yugoslavia, June 29, 1940.

We were blessed to share this special double anniversary with Fr. John and Dna. Ps. Valeria and their family. La Multi Ani!

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1991 CALENDAR

Annual Almanac

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DEADLINE: August 13, 1990

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**WELCOME TO THE ANNUAL
CHURCH CONGRESS
THURS., JUNE 28 - SUN., JULY 1, 1990
AT VATRA ROMANEASCA
GRASS LAKE, MICHIGAN**

CHURCH CONGRESS PROGRAM (REVISED)

THURSDAY, JUNE 28:

8:30 a.m. — Invocation
9:00 a.m. — Conference (Clergy)
5:00 p.m. — Vespers
6:00 p.m. — Supper
7:00 p.m. — Presentation

FRIDAY, JUNE 29:

8:00 a.m. — Liturgy
9:30 a.m. — Conference (Clergy)
3:30 p.m. — Episcopate Council
5:00 p.m. — Vespers
6:00 p.m. — Supper
7:00 p.m. — HELP FOR ROMANIA Presentation

SATURDAY, JUNE 30:

8:00 a.m. — Registration
8:30 a.m. — Invocation
9:00 a.m. — Congress
5:00 p.m. — Vespers
6:00 p.m. — Supper
7:00 p.m. — Cultural Program/Dance

SUNDAY, JULY 1:

9:00 a.m. — Matins
10:00 a.m. — Procession and Hierarchal Liturgy
1:00 p.m. — Festive banquet and Cultural Program

Kitchen Host: St. Mary, Cleveland, Ohio
General Hosts: Episcopate National Auxiliaries
Choir: St. George Cathedral, Southfield, Michigan

***For accommodations see April issue of SOLIA**

**INVITATION
STS. CONSTANTINE & ELENA
ROMANIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA
80TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION**

Saturday, June 23:

8:00 p.m. - Dance: St. George Orthodox Church
Midnight 4020 Sherman Dr., Indianapolis, IN
Music by "Barbu Lautaru" Band

Sunday, June 24:

10:30 a.m. - Divine Liturgy at Sts. Constantine & Elena
Church, 3237 W. 16th St., Indianapolis, IN
12:30 p.m. - Dinner in St. George Social Hall

**For additional information, contact:
Rev. Fr. Filimon Barbos, (317) 638-4162 or
John Serban, (317) 842-9602**

1990 EPISCOPATE CONGRESS SPECIAL ACTIVITIES

The Episcopate Council has prepared special events for this year's Annual Congress.

On Friday evening, interesting information will be presented concerning the Episcopate's "Help for Romania" Fund and the activities of the Episcopate concerning assistance to Romania.

Mr. Luke Hingson, Executive Director of Brother's Brother Foundation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, will talk about the cooperation between the ROEA and BBF, including the tons of grain, hospital and medical assistance and book projects.

The Episcopate's representatives to Romania will also be on hand to tell of what they saw and did.

On Saturday, after the Congress, a special Romanian dinner with music by the Bluetones will be held in the Tower Pavilion. Dance ensembles will perform on that evening and on Sunday at the Banquet. After the performance on Saturday, a public dance will be held with music by the same orchestra.

Groups which have expressed the interest to perform are: **Eminescu Dancers**, Regina; **Izvorasul** from St. Paul; **Sezatoare** from Cleveland; **Ardeleana** from Sts. Peter and Paul, Dearborn Heights; St. Mary, Chicago; Holy Nativity, Chicago; and others who are still considering performing.

There will not be any vocal or artistic presentations other than those of our parishes or groups invited by the committee.

St. Mary's Auxiliary from Cleveland promises us the best of Romanian cuisine for Saturday evening; and the other meals will be as well prepared as that one.

The AROY has plans for games and activities for the youngsters while the adults are attending the Congress sessions. Members of the three national Auxiliaries will co-host the Congress with the St. Mary's Auxiliary.

No raffles nor sales are allowed on the Vatra grounds, and no peddling of goods or artifacts of any kind will be tolerated.

The Episcopate Council extends a warm welcome to the delegates and looks forward to seeing you at all the special events!

VATRA SUMMER CAMPS

PARENTS: Do your children get the summertime ho-hum blues? The Vatra has the answer. Why not try two wonderful weeks at summer camp? The dates are July 7-21 for the Junior camp and July 29-August 12 for the Senior camp. Information and registration forms are available through the church office. Also, if you would like to go with your child there are plenty of positions open to help out. Why not find a spiritual blessing and a fun time at the Vatra camp this year?

Sharon Peleshenko, Church School Director
(St. Thomas Parish, St. Louis, MO)

The Summer Camps are organized by the Episcopate's Department of Religious Education in cooperation with the diocesan auxiliaries.

The purpose of the camps is "to acquaint the students with the beliefs and practices of the Orthodox Church," and "at the same time give them the opportunity of wholesome recreation."

The location lends itself to this end. The camps are held at the Episcopate's headquarters. Located in southern rural Michigan, the 200+ acre diocesan center, only 20 minutes away from the city of Jackson, resides in the middle of farm country. Fresh air and lakes abound.

The facilities are excellent. The camps meet and exceed the requirements of the State of Michigan. St. Simeon House provides dormitory facilities for 60 people. The kitchen equipment is newly replaced this year.

The staff is capable and caring. It is composed of college students, parents and grandparents, young and old, clergy and laity from the diocese.

Serving to educate our youth in Christian teachings and the life of Christ, the Summer Camps offer a wide range of activities. The program includes activities for the body, mind and heart. The schedule makes time for personal and group activities that include church services, cultivating friendships, prayer, study, sports, crafts, swimming and other recreational activities.

Both camps are open to boys and girls.

The registration fee for the Camps is \$100. Students from Orthodox parishes outside the Episcopate are welcome to attend. The registration fee for guest students is \$150.

The dates of this year's camps are:

Junior Camp: July 7-21, 1990
Senior Camp: July 29-August 12, 1990

Registration forms are available from your parish priest or Ps. Mary Ellen Rosco, (313) 562-1521.

DEADLINE: JUNE 22, 1990.



HELP WANTED!

The Vatra Summer Camps are scheduled for July 7-21 (Junior Camp) and July 29-August 12 (Senior Camp). As it was stated in the March issue of SO-LIA, in order to hold camp, we must have a complete staff. After the article appeared, a few people kindly volunteered their help — but not enough.

Below are the remaining positions which **MUST** be filled. Are you willing to give some of your time so that the camps can be held? If so, please contact Ps. Mary Ellen Rosco as soon as possible. **Your help will make the difference. CALL: (313) 562-1521.**

JUNIOR CAMP STAFF NEEDED:

Camp Health Director (Doctor, LPN or RN) with current CPR
Water Safety Instructor with current CPR
Senior Life Saver with current CPR
Choir Director
Assistant Cook

SENIOR CAMP STAFF NEEDED (MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER):

Camp Health Director with current CPR
Water Safety Instructor with current CPR
Senior Life Saver with current CPR
House Mother
Camp Spiritual Director — clergy
Teacher — clergy or layperson
Choir Director
Arts & Crafts Director
Head Dining Room Hostess
2 Assistant Dining Room Hostesses
Maintenance Man

CALL: Ps. Mary Ellen Rosco, (313) 562-1521

THE 1990 ARFORA CONGRESS

On Thursday evening, May 31, 1990, delegates from across Canada and the United States began arriving at the Holiday Inn in Dearborn, Michigan, to attend the 42nd ARFORA Congress hosted by the Ladies Auxiliary of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Dearborn Heights, Michigan.

Shouts of recognition and bursts of laughter were heard in the lobby as friends spotted each other and ran over with enthusiastic greetings. This spilled over into the "hospitality room" where, following the initial registrations, a refreshment table loaded with various hors d'oeuvres was a magnet to all.

On Friday morning, following a Continental breakfast, the Executive Board met to review the final agenda for a smooth-running Congress. All the religious services, meetings, and activities of the Congress took place at the beautiful church and its well-equipped facilities.

After a light luncheon, the Congress was called into session by the president, Pauline Trutza. Roll call was answered by 38 delegates representing 18 auxiliaries. On Saturday, this was increased to 41 delegates representing 20 auxiliaries.

Welcoming addresses were given by the President and by the Co-Chairman of the Congress, Eugenia Porocho, who also extended the welcome of the other Co-Chairman, Veturia Nicula.

After joining in the welcome to the church, Rev. Fr. Romey Rosco, host pastor, presented the keynote address in his capacity as Spiritual Advisor of ARFORA. He urged the women to be aware of their importance to the Church, both on the local and national levels, with ARFORA being the connecting door. A whole person must extend herself beyond the confines of her home in order to be fulfilled, and joining with others in her church and in her diocese helps her in her search for fulfillment to be one with God. Orthodox women united can be a tremendous force.

In his brief remarks, His Grace, Bishop Nathaniel, seconded these ideas and expressed the thought that as your hearts are open, so will your minds be open to prayer and good deeds.

The agenda was accepted as presented. The minutes of the 1989 Congress held in Regina, Sask., were read and approved. The financial report of the Treasurer, Eugenia Porocho, as verified by the Auditors, was accepted.

Discussions and acceptance of the Ways and Means report and the Iancu Kitchen Financial report followed. We are hoping additional monies will be collected for this needed, worthwhile project. The remodeling is complete, except for minor items that are being finished and necessary funds to pay for the final work.

Our guest speaker, Mrs. Carol Metes Stevens, gave a powerful and moving talk on her experiences in Romania as she and her husband followed the heart-breaking route of visiting the poverty-stricken orphanages in Bucharest in their attempt to find a baby to adopt. They were fortunate to find and adopt their beautiful baby daughter, Susan Marie.

Mrs. Stevens also discussed the establishment of the **Help the Children of Romania** fund. At the conclusion of her presentation, President Trutza presented her a check from ARFORA for \$500 as our contribution.

Following dinner that evening, everyone was royally entertained by an excellent ethnic program highlighted by the skilled dancing group, the "Ardeleana Dancers." Performers also included an excellent youth dance group, vocalists, and instrumentalists. The outstanding number, "Nunta Taraneasca," performed by the youth, was hilarious, and the audience roared with laughter following each incident of a typical Romanian wedding.

On Saturday morning, fortified by a tasty breakfast, the Congress

reconvened. All correspondence was read and noted. **Committee reports included:** St. Paraschiva project, Auxiliary Sunday, St. Elizabeth project, ARFORA Newsletter edited by Pearl Mailath, Retreats, Membership, Archbishop Valerian Memorial. Leona Barbu, Chairman of the ARFORA-Martha Gavrila scholarship announced that the recipient of the \$1,000 award for this year is Deborah Ann Stanciu, Cleveland, Ohio.

The **ARFORA Guide Book**, recently printed, was passed out to the delegates. Also newly-printed were our revised **Constitution and By-Laws**. Enough copies were given to the delegates to take back to their parishes for distribution to all their membership.

A Publicity Pamphlet that we are considering was handed to all the delegates for them to check and to make suggestions before it is published in a final form.

Bishop Nathaniel discussed the contemplated National Organization of Orthodox Women in the OCA. Pauline Trutza and Leona Barbu were on the committee that worked with the Bishop to establish a workable Constitution and By-Laws for this organization. This was approved by the Holy Synod and presented and approved at the Ninth All-American Council of the OCA held at St. Louis, Missouri.

Our second guest speaker was Fr. Demetrios S. Kavadas, priest of the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church, St. Clair Shores, MI. His fine presentation on "Orthodox Women and Philanthropy: A Challenge for Our Times," was stirring and riveted the attention of all as he made his points discussing the meaning of philanthropy as love, with all its various aspects.

We adjourned to the church for a Memorial Service for our deceased members, served by Bishop Nathaniel and the Rev. Frs. Tofan and Rosco. Rev. Fr. Kavadas was in attendance.

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After our luncheon break, the Congress reconvened. Old business was concluded. Reports were heard on the activities of each parish represented at the Congress, as given by the local president or delegate. We were pleased to learn that the **Auxiliary from Youngstown, Ohio, will host the 1991 Congress.**

The Coffee Shop during the Church Congress will be hosted by the following auxiliaries:

1990 — Holy Trinity, Youngstown, Ohio.

1991 — Sts. Peter and Paul, Dearborn Hgts., MI.

1992 — Holy Resurrection, Warren, OH.

The amount proposed and approved for the 1990-1991 budget was \$20,700.00.

We thank young Tom Rosco for his excellent assistance in acting as page to the delegates throughout the Congress.

There being no further business, the Congress was adjourned. Fr. Rosco gave the closing prayer and Bishop Nathaniel bestowed the blessing.

After the official photographs of all Delegates were taken, Great Vespers was served in the Church by Bishop Nathaniel and Frs. Surducan and Rosco, following which, confessions were heard.

The dance that evening had music provided by the "Blue Tones" orchestra. The good music of the Big Band era, alternating with favorite Romanian melodies, led throngs of dancers to the floor; and, even those not dancing enjoyed watching their exuberant spirits. A delicious buffet was served. We highly praise the parishioners for the extra-delicious meals served during the entire weekend. They certainly deserve a lot of credit for adding to the success of this Congress.

On Sunday morning, the church was crowded with parishioners and guests attending the Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Grace, Bishop Nathaniel, with Rev. Frs. Surducan and Rosco. The sermon given by Bishop Nathaniel stressed the pow-

er of the Holy Spirit as it was manifested to all at the very first Pentecost, the birth of our Holy Church, and its continuing power throughout the past, today, and in the future. This was followed by the Pentecost vespers and kneeling service.

The final event was the traditional banquet in the Church social hall which was decorated beautifully in a floral theme. Each delegate was presented with a lovely corsage. A Souvenir Booklet, with a lovely reproduction of a striking, old icon of St. Paraschiva, was at each place setting.

The invocation was given by Fr. Surducan. After the delicious meal, we all settled back to listen to the fine program for which Virginia Moore did an excellent job as Mistress of Ceremonies. Welcome addresses were given by Fr. Rosco, Eugenia Poroeh, and Nicolae Barbosa, Parish Council President.

In her remarks, President Trutza introduced her Executive Board of Officers, then touched upon the highlights of the happenings during this past year.

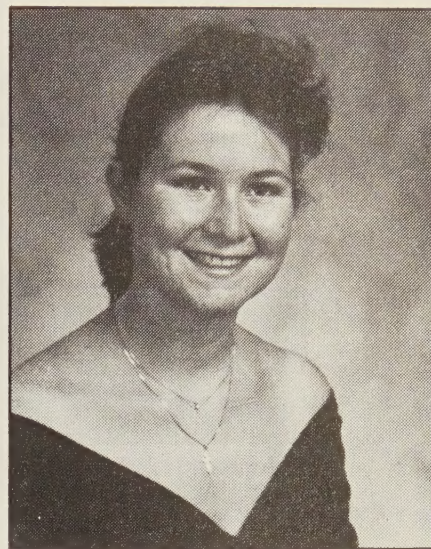
The principal address was given by Bishop Nathaniel who praised the ARFORA women for their past activities, but urged them to set their goals, compassion, and outreach to a wider area of accomplishment. He restated the intent of the ARFORA Congress that now that the kitchen project is completed, their new project will be a wholehearted effort to help the children of Romania.

The Benediction by Fr. Rosco and the Blessing by Bishop Nathaniel closed the 1990 ARFORA Congress. Another page has been added to the history of our organization, and additional fond memories have been added to our hearts and minds. We sincerely appreciate the graciousness of all the parishioners for all the great things they did, as well as all the many extra small things that were not so obvious but surely added to the whole effect that made our visit so enjoyable.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

F.S.

A.R.F.O.R.A./ MARTHA GAVRILA SCHOLARSHIP



DEBORAH ANN STANCIU

The recipient of the 1990 A.R.F.O.R.A./Martha Gavrila Scholarship for Women in graduate school is Miss Deborah Ann Stanciu of Cleveland, Ohio. She is the daughter of Mr. Virgil Stanciu and the late Emily Stanciu of St. Mary's parish, Cleveland, Ohio.

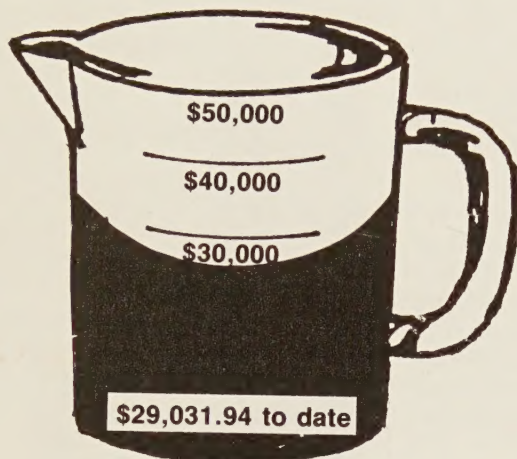
Deborah Ann Stanciu is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a degree in Engineering (1989). She has been accepted at Wayne State University School of Law to further her education and become an attorney.

Congratulations and best wishes for fulfillment of your goals!

“A great deal of good can be done in the world if one is not too careful who gets the credit.”

A.R.F.O.R.A. VATRA SUMMER KITCHEN FUND DRIVE

Have **YOU** helped us measure up?



Send your
contributions to:

A.R.F.O.R.A.
c/o Mrs. Eugenia Poroch
21101 Winkel Dr.
St. Clair Shores, MI 48081

Donations Received
April 21 - May 11, 1990

\$1,000.00

St. Mary Orthodox Church, Chicago, IL

\$500.00

Bishop Nathaniel Popp, Jackson, MI

\$390.00

ARFORA Board Members, Spring Meeting at Vatra

\$200.00

Carrie Steski, Winnipeg, MAN.

\$25.00

Dan & Virginia Calin, Chicago, IL

John & Mary Tilea, Youngstown, OH

Ioan & Valentine Nan, Sun City, AZ

Gordon D. Galbincea, Cleveland, OH

Greg W. Nutial, N. Canton, OH

REMINDER

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINES

GOLDY — JULY 10, 1990

STANITZ/AROY — JULY 1, 1990

(See March issue [pg. 13] for more details)

20th ANNIVERSARY OF AUTOCEPHALY

One of the celebrations of the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Tomos of Autocephaly was held at St. Tikhon's Monastery, South Canaan, Pennsylvania, Sunday-Tuesday, May 27-29.

In conjunction, members of the Holy Synod also were present for the 48th Annual Commencement of St. Tikhon Seminary. A Hierarchal Divine Liturgy was celebrated in the monastery church on Sunday by His Beatitude, **Theodosius** and concelebrated by His Eminence, Metropolitan **Juvenaly** of Krutitsy and Kolomna, His Eminence, **Peter**, Archbishop of New York, and their Graces, **Dmitri** of Dallas, **Herman** of Philadelphia, **Gregory** of Sitka, **Nathaniel** of Detroit, **Tikhon** of San Francisco and **Seraphim** of Edmonton. Members of the monastic community and the seminary gave the responses.

The commencement exercises were held in the afternoon at which two seminarians were graduated and four clergy received the Master of Divinity degree.

On Monday, the 86th Annual Pilgrimage took place. The number of participants was large and the faithful gathered for the Divine Liturgy sang along with the choir. Present for this celebration, along with the other members of the Holy Synod were Their Graces, Kyrill of Pittsburgh who celebrated the Divine Liturgy for the workers earlier in the morning and Job of Hartford. Special prayers and ectenias were offered in thanksgiving for God's gift of autocephaly to the Church in America.

At the conclusion of the service, a memorial service for His Beatitude Leonty was held in the presence of all the hierarchs. Next to the tomb of the metropolitan is that of Archpriest Toth who led back many Greek Catholics to the Orthodox Church in the 1930's.

Services at the many and various shrines were held throughout the day, and the faithful with the clergy held services at the graves of their relatives and friends who are buried at St. Tikhon's cemetery.

After the services, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at the site of construction for a new dormitory. Metropolitan Theodosius, in the presence of the other members of the hierarchy, broke the ground.

On Tuesday, members of the Holy Synod met in special session to consider the direction of the Church in the future and to share with each other some of their thoughts and intentions for Church Growth in the next decades. The meeting was held in the seminary and was an occasion for a fraternal exchange of ideas and the shaping of plans. At the end of the afternoon sessions, members of the Holy Synod took their leave, returning to their archpastoral duties.

AVRAM IANCU KITCHEN DONATIONS TO DATE (May 17, 1990)

BY PARISHES AND AUXILIARIES

Southfield, MI: St. George Cathedral
Parish \$600.00, Ladies Auxiliary \$1,000.00, Sr. AROY \$1,000.00

Dearborn Hts., MI: Sts. Peter & Paul
Parish \$1,000.00, Ladies Auxiliary \$1,000.00, AROY \$500.00, Men's Club \$500.00.

Detroit, MI: St. Nicholas
-0-

Warren, MI: Descent of the Holy Ghost
Ladies Auxiliary \$250.00

Kitchener, ONT: St. John the Baptist
-0-

Toronto, ONT: St. George
-0-

Bridgeport, CT: St. Dimitrie
Ladies Auxiliary: \$200.00

Brooklyn, NY: Three Hierarchs
-0-

Brooklyn, NY: Descent of the Holy Spirit
-0-

Miramar, FL: Holy Trinity
-0-

New York, NY: St. Dumitru
Ladies Auxiliary: \$100.00

Elkins Park, PA: Descent of the Holy Spirit
Parish \$100.00, Ladies Auxiliary \$200.00

Washington, D.C.: Holy Cross
-0-

Elmhurst, NY: St. Mary
-0-

Dunn Loring, VA: St. Mary
-0-

Woonsocket, RI: St. John the Baptist
Parish \$200.00

Chicago, IL: St. Mary
Parish \$1,000.00, Ladies Auxiliary \$1,000.00

Chicago, IL: Holy Nativity
Ladies Auxiliary \$200.00

Ft. Wayne, IN: Sts. Michael & Gabriel
Parish \$100.00, Ladies Auxiliary \$100.00

Indianapolis, IN: Sts. Constantine & Helen
-0-

St. Louis, MO: St. Thomas
-0-

St. Paul, MN: St. Mary
Ladies Auxiliary \$1,000.00

Akron, OH: Presentation of Our Lord
Parish \$500.00, Ladies Auxiliary \$500.00, AROY \$500.00

Canton, OH: St. George
Ladies Auxiliary \$100.00, AROY \$500.00

Cleveland, OH: St. Mary
Parish \$2,500.00, Ladies Auxiliary \$500.00, GEROY \$200.00, St. Mary Society \$500.00

Ellwood City, PA: St. Elias
Parish \$300.00, Ladies Auxiliary \$100.00

Hermitage, PA: Holy Cross
Parish \$250.00, Ladies Auxiliary \$250.00

Warren, OH: Holy Resurrection
Parish \$500.00, Ladies Auxiliary \$500.00

Youngstown, OH: Holy Trinity
Parish \$1,000.00, Ladies Auxiliary \$200.00, AROY \$150.00

Los Angeles, CA: Holy Trinity
-0-

Phoenix, AZ: St. John the Baptist
-0-

Tustin, CA: St. Mary
-0-

Assiniboia/Flintoft, SASK: Sts. Peter & Paul/Descent of the Holy Ghost
Parish \$83.00

Calgary, ALTA: St. Mary
Ladies Auxiliary \$835.00

Dysart, SASK: St. George
-0-

Lennard, MAN: St. Elias
-0-

McNutt, SASK: Holy Trinity
-0-

Regina, SASK: St. George
Ladies Auxiliary \$836.00, AROY \$60.94

Regina, SASK: St. Nicholas
Ladies Auxiliary \$210.00

Winnipeg, MAN: St. George
Ladies Auxiliary \$257.00

National Auxiliaries
AROY \$1,000.00, Orthodox Brotherhood of Canada \$300.00.

ATTENTION GRADUATES

Congratulations on being graduated! Please consider informing our SOLIA readers of your significant achievement. Submit information about your achievements (subject to revision by the Editor) and a photo. The fee is \$15.00. Send your information, photo and fee to: SOLIA—The Herald, 146 W. Cortland, Jackson, Michigan 49201-2208.

CHILDREN AND CONFESSION

"I hate going to confession, I'll just tell God my sins."

Did you every express any of these thoughts? Many people have at one time or another in their lifetime. Many people still hold to these thoughts today. Considering the attitude many adult Orthodox Christians demonstrate toward Confession, it is little wonder that our children learn to dread the practice.

It certainly is not easy to change attitudes of people under any circumstances. We cannot erase the experiences (sometimes bad) that people have had with Confession. Nor can we erase the very strong emotions that people have come to feel toward Confession (something akin to having to go to the dentist!). My hope in this article is to try to make a dent in the future attitudes toward Confession that our children will have.

Parents will set the example

Children will continue to model their parents' attitudes towards Confession. If parents want their children to value the Sacrament, then parents will have to control their own fears and feelings. This is more easily said than done, but it is the starting place.

Even more important, parents have to learn to set the example for forgiving, apologizing and repenting in daily life and interactions. It is little wonder that most of us grow up not knowing how to repent, forgive, and apologize, because we rarely see adults showing us how to do it!

Christian parents need to remember that making mistakes, getting angry, blaming, accusing, fighting, withdrawing, sulking, seething, and the like are *learned* behavior in the fallen world. Much more difficult is to apologize, forgive, repent and be reconciled. In our day-to-day interactions in our families, parents have many opportunities to trespass and hurt each other. Thus, there also are many opportunities to demonstrate to our children a Christian way to deal with our shortcomings.

Repenting, admitting fault, accepting blame, are not signs of weakness and failure. Yet, when a family member does admit fault, he or she is often further blamed, accused and punished. So children quickly learn to lie to protect themselves. There is very little incentive in admitting the truth. Besides, parents are not often demonstrating the art of admitting guilt and then reconciling to one another. Often in family spats, one party is destroyed through blame, or a "cold war" of hostility and resentment sets in for a while.

We can learn to reconcile

While it is not easy, we all can learn to admit our own mistakes and accept blame without being crushed by our failures. From the time of Adam and Eve, humans have been sinning and hoping to escape the con-

sequences of their actions by blaming someone else. In Christ Jesus, we are given opportunity to have the blame and guilt of sin and error lifted. We can learn to admit to our wrongs and know that neither God nor other Christians will totally reject us.

We also need to learn to forgive — to reconcile ourselves to those who hurt and fail us. Instead of posturing ourselves in power against those around us who fail, we can learn to accept the fact that others will sin and fail us. We do not need to blame and attack them for their failings. We can teach ourselves to be patient, kind, tolerant, and loving to those around us. We can learn to rid ourselves of the desire to take vengeance on those who fail us. And, we can train ourselves to forgive — not to let things remain in a state of cold hostility of withdrawal, but actively to restore relationships torn apart by someone's sin and someone else's sinful response.

Children should see that admitting fault is not a weakness that gets you in further trouble, but rather a strong opportunity to reconcile and reunite the separated. They should see this in the interactions of their Christian parents. It is difficult for us to do. Children need the godly model in their lives, that admitting guilt, repenting, forgiving and reconciling are in fact a wonderful (if difficult) Christian mystery lived out every day in life.

Of course, in any family, on any day, emotions might run so high as to make this scenario impossible. Also, years of neglect and unresolved conflict can hamper efforts at honest admission of fault and repentance. Reconciliation, forgiveness, re-uniting the separated, is still the goal of the Christian life (would that it were the norm in every family!).

Family discussion on Confession

All of this discussion on family behavior is connected with the Sacrament of Confession. Once our children see human relationships restored and healed in their own families, they will also value the blessing of Confession and reconciliation with God. Once they have experienced reconciliation in the family (admission of sin, repentance, forgiveness and reconciliation) they will be ready for the fact of liturgical and communal reconciliation.

We all would do well to remember the old story of George Washington and the cherry tree. At least in some versions of that story, young George is not punished for his honesty. We should teach that story to our children. Teach them the value of honesty. Reward them for bravely admitting their sins, mistakes and failures. (Note well, we do not reward them for their sins and failures, but embrace them for being honest).

continued on page 13

A Press Release From The Holy Synod Of The Church In Romania

The Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church, having taken into consideration the numerous memoranda and requests from members of the clergy, the monasteries and faithful of the Romanian Patriarchate in which they expressed their desire to have His Beatitude, Patriarch Teoctist, return to the patriarchal throne, and having considered other issues, in its April 4, 1990, session, unanimously decided to recall him to reassume the presidency of the Holy Synod and the other duties incumbent on him as Patriarch of Romania.

The decision was taken based on the fact that the Holy Synod, in its January 18, 1990, session, for canonical reasons did not accept the retirement of the Patriarch but merely respected his wishes based on the issue of poor health.

To this was added the fact that, having recovered his health, His Beatitude accepted to return and fulfill his archpastoral obligations, according to the canons and laws of the Universal Orthodox Church by which he ought not leave his spiritual flock.

The return of His Beatitude, Patriarch Teoctist to his ministry as head of the Romanian Orthodox Church is in conformity with the canonical order of the Romanian

Patriarchate and in her ties with the other sister autocephalous churches in the world.

One cannot omit the fact that some of these sister churches questioned the canonicity and authenticity of the patriarch's retirement, continuing to remember him in the holy services as the head of the Romanian Orthodox Church.

The Holy Synod is convinced that his decision will contribute to the strengthening of the unity of our ancestral Church and to the harmony of pastoral and missionary activity so very necessary today.

(Translation: ROEA Office)

SAINTS PETER AND PAUL June 29th

Among the many works of Medieval times is a book called the "Golden Legend" written or rather compiled by Jacobus de Voragine who lived in the middle of the 13th century. He was of humble origin and rose to be Archbishop of Genoa. From the compilation of his "Golden Legend", we offer a few lines concerning the great two pillars of the Church, Peter and Paul.

"Saint Peter excelled all the other apostles in his faith. He it was who sought to learn the name of the one who would betray Jesus; and, as the blessed Augustine says, he surely would have torn the traitor to pieces with his teeth had he known who he was. That is why Jesus did not name him; for if he had made his name known, as St. John Chrysostom says, Peter would straightway have risen and slain him."

"It is also said that he always carried a towel with him with which to dry his tears, for whenever again in memory he heard the voice of his sweet Master, he could not but help weep with tender emotion. He wept also at the memory of his denial; so much so that, St. Clement says, his face was always red, inflamed with his tears."

"Following his conversion, Paul the Apostle was made to undergo many persecutions, which St. Hilary states briefly in these words: 'At Philippi he was beaten with rods, imprisoned, and tied by the feet to a wooden bar; at Klastra, he was stoned; at Icona and Thessalonika, falsely accused; at Ephesus, thrown to the beasts; at Damascus, cast from the top of a tower; at Jerusalem, arrested, beaten, bound, assaulted; at Caesarea, put in jail; during his voyage to Italy, exposed to storms, and finally at Rome, under Nero, judged and put to death, and so his life ended.'"

continued on page 14

Confession *continued from page 12*

We can find evidence in the Holy Fathers of our Church, that it is not the sin which is so abhorrent to God, it is more frequently our failure to repent which He hates. Looked at from a different viewpoint, it is not the confession of sin which makes us an enemy of God, but the sinning itself. In any case, Confession is part of the healing process. Confession is the blessed acknowledgement of sin which makes reconciliation and peace with God possible.

Families should read and study together the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32), a story of sin, self-centeredness, forgiveness and reconciliation; Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), a story of greed, repentance; Jacob and Esau (Genesis 27, 32:3-7, 33:1-11), a story of greed and reconciliation; Joseph and his brothers (Genesis 37:1-11, 12-14, 18-28, 50:15-21), a story of jealousy

and forgiveness. These stories can teach us about separation, repentance, seeking forgiveness, forgiving and reconciliation. They are stories which ought to be known and understood in every Christian family. They are real, human, family situations with a godly viewpoint. They teach us that our forefathers in the faith, sinned and dealt with the consequences of their sin. Families would do well to memorize the stories, discuss them, act them out, and most of all put their message into practice. Perhaps they also will shape future relationships between husband and wife, and with our children.

In shaping a positive attitude toward Confession, we will discover what to confess becomes much easier.

**Fr. Rev. Ted Bobosh, Diocese of the Midwest
(OCA) Education Director**
From: "The Vigil", Vol. 11, No. 1,
Spring 1990, pp. 1,4.

Peter & Paul

continued from page 13

"His learning and his piety were so inspiring that he even had as disciples and friends, several members of Nero's household, and some of his writings were even read in Nero's presence."

"When Paul was brought before Nero in chains he said to him: 'You are the servant of a great king and yet you are my slave. Why do you turn my soldiers from their duty to me?' St. Paul replied, 'Not only in your court do I gather my soldiers but in the whole world. This King is so mighty he will judge the whole world and men by fire.' Nero was so angry he had all Christians put to death by fire until the people of Rome broke into the palace and threatened him saying: 'Caesar, put an end to the massacre, for the men whom you send to death are our kinsmen and the staunchest supporters of the Empire. And he was afraid and stopped, reserving for himself the right to judge Christians. He it was who had Paul beheaded.'"

PARISH BULLETIN NOTES

Winnipeg, Man. St. George. Congratulations to Mary MacLellan on her graduation as a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. She has been assigned to the detachment at Esterhazy, Sask. . . . The television program "Sundayscope" broadcast in Manitoba and Saskatchewan featured an interview of Mother Cassiana by Fr. Klysh on the subject of Orthodox monasticism in Western Canada. . . . On national television, C.B.C. broadcast the Easter Service from our church with Fr. Klysh as celebrant. The entire service was recorded on Easter and was well edited into an hour-long telecast. We were fortunate to have had the opportunity to show the whole world our beautiful and meaningful Orthodox Resurrection service.

Hermitage, PA. Holy Cross. Our May parish banquet honored

our mothers, fathers, and the Church School and high school graduates . . . Congratulations to our high school graduates Valerie Luca, Alan Brandt, and Chris Kushner. Chris was the recipient of the Shenango Valley Orthodox Women's scholarship . . . Fr. John and many parishioners traveled to the Transfiguration Monastery to join the Sisterhood for Divine Liturgy to celebrate the Leave-taking of Pascha . . . We express sorrow at the death of Mrs. Aurelia Zaku Miller, a long-time parishioner, who was the first child to be baptized in St. Mary's Church, Cleveland, the first Romanian Orthodox parish in the U.S.

Merrillville, IN. Descent of the Holy Spirit. During Great Lent, our Church School children saved their money in their individual "Love Loaf Bank," and turned in their savings on Palm Sunday. Two checks were issued, one to World Vision and one to the "Help for Romania" fund . . . The AROY group, together with another local church group, sponsored and took part in a 24-hour "hunger lock out." They spent the time in prayer, fellowship, and fun, without eating or nibbling, and learned about the plight of those less fortunate who have little or no food, from various speakers. Pledges were collected for each hour of participation and the final collection was again divided between the two charitable funds . . . The Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a public luncheon of Chicken & Dumplings, with all proceeds earmarked for the Romanian senior citizens Gift Box project.

Southfield, MI. St. George Cathedral. A Parents Club has been formed to help with activities involving the Church School children . . . Many attended our fine Mother's Day dinner . . . The Ladies Auxiliary sponsored a successful Rummage & Bake Sale . . . congratulations to these college graduates: Dorina Fedorovici, Eastern Michigan Univ., BBA; David Carson, Central

Michigan Univ., BA in Education; Kenneth Blendea, University of Detroit, BBA. . . . The AROY Annual Reverse Raffle evening was successful. With part of the proceeds AROY donated \$1,000 to the Vatra Kitchen fund and part to the Church Internal Loan fund . . . AROY also sponsored a Lenten Supper after last Friday Presanctified Liturgy . . . and contributed \$100 toward Church School's Lazarus Saturday Lenten Workshop.

Calgary, Alta. St. Mary. Thanks to M/M Adamache who are sponsoring two of our young people at the Vatra Summer Camps this year . . . With the help of all our excellent bakers and wonderful helpers who assisted in so many ways, our ARFORA Bakesale was a rousing success.

St. Louis, MO. St. Thomas. Gail & Andrew Grow are part of an exchange-student program with a family in England. Their exchange visitor arrived to stay with the Groves family. Welcome to our community! . . . After Divine Liturgy on Mother's Day, beautiful red rose stick pins were handed out to all the ladies.

Los Angeles, CA. Holy Trinity. On March 31 a group of members of Holy Trinity took a day trip to Bear Mountain sponsored by the parish and the Viitorul Roman Society. It was great fun to have snowball fights, snow pan rides and enjoy each other's company! We are very appreciative to our sponsors because they care about the youth of our parish . . . Our children from the Sunday School and LAROF are getting very involved with the church activities. They are extremely proud to be able to participate with the reading of the Epistle every Sunday during Liturgy, and they actually volunteer to read in front of the congregation! They are the future leaders of our church, and we thank those parents and grandparents for bringing their children to church every Sunday.

MEMORIAL DAY AT THE VATRA

On May 28, clergy and Episcopal members and friends gathered at the Vatra to pay tribute to those individuals who died on the battlefield in the name of freedom.

The day's events commenced with the celebration of the Divine Liturgy by Archimandrite Roman Braga (Holy Dormition Monastery), Rev. Constantin Tofan (St. George Cathedral), and Rev. Fr. George Treff (Descent of the Holy Spirit). Responses were given by the Reverend Mothers of Holy Dormition Monastery, Rives Junction, Michigan.

The sound of bells and the toaca filled the air as the clergy and faithful walked in procession to the ROY Flag Plaza for the Memorial Service for our men and women who have fallen in the line of duty. Afterwards, at the Memorial Pavilion in the cemetery, a service was held for those interred in St. Mary Cemetery.

Immediately following the religious services, a traditional Romanian meal was served to all. This selectable dinner was prepared and served by the ladies of St. George Cathedral, Southfield, Michigan, under the supervision of Dorothy Aldea and Goldie Kalugar.

Amyvets Post 109 of Chicago, Illinois, presented the colaci and wine for the faithful in memory of all armed forces veterans.

Visitors traveled from the Greater Detroit area, Ft. Wayne, Indiana; Chicago, Illinois; Ohio, and Jackson, Michigan; to participate in this, the opening event of the Vatra summer season.

On Friday night, May 25, families and AROY members began arriving at the Vatra for the National ROY Family Weekend and to help clean and open up the Vatra facilities for the summer. After lunch on Saturday, Fr. George Treff led a mini-conference for families. Discussion followed the viewing of a video by Dr. James Dobson on the topic

of "Questions Parents Ask." Most of the participants in the Family Weekend helped serve the dinner on Monday and clean up afterward. A wonderful time was had by all of the approximately 50-60 participants who were able to make the time to attend.

In addition to our Memorial Day festivities, His Grace, Bishop Nathaniel, together with the Holy Synod of Bishops, traveled to St. Tikhon's Seminary/Monastery in South Canaan, Pennsylvania, to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Autocephaly of the Orthodox Church in America.

M.P.C.

We recognize with thanks and appreciation the following individuals for Memorial Day Dinner donations.

\$300.00

Audrey J. Huston

\$100.00

Donna Muresan

\$50.00

M/M Andrei Muresan, M/M Ioan Nan

\$40.00

M/M John Tipa

\$35.00

M/M Paul Costea

\$30.00

M/M George Aldea, M/M Floru Cantor, N. Filipescu, Constantin Marandici, M/M Mihai Tipa, John Zakhi.

\$25.00

M/M Dan Calin, M/M George Daba, Anna Jonascu, M/M Traian Lascu, M/M John Mercea, John Micu, M/M Ronald Muresan, M/M Charles Nanas, M/M Peter Nutu, John Pavu, M/M Daniel Poroch, M/M Valer Pufescu, Jr.

\$20.00

Gary Dippel, M/M George Dragila, M/M Joseph Fataen, M/M T. Kotowski, Marian Manta & Rodica Kocur, David Oancea, M/M Nick Preda, Eugene Raica, M. Dumitru, M. Sirbu, Rev. Fr. Tofan, Rev. Fr. G. Treff & Family, Gus Vincent.

\$15.00

Anonymous, Subdeacon Paul & Jeanette Hildreth, Constantin Modreanu, Peter Muresan Jr., M/M George Nasea, M/M Alex Nemoianu.

SOLIA

April 19 — May 30, 1990

FRIENDS

\$30.00

M/M George Papes, Cicero, IL

\$20.00

Eugen Barsan, Chicago, IL
Ida Magirescu, Weston, ONT.

\$15.00

Rev. Fr. & Psa. John Ivascu,
Southfield, MI

\$12.00

Mary Steitz, Youngstown, OH
M/M William Popescul, Las Vegas, NV
M/M William Bogdan, Clinton, OH

Rev. Dn. Constantin Lupascu, Fort Wayne, IN

Mary Kalinowski, Hazel Park, MI
Rev. Fr. & Psa. Leonte Copacia,
Utica, MI

M/M George Jonescu, Capac, MI
Wesley Oprea, Chicago, IL
M/M Peter Grofsorean, Dearborn, MI

\$10.00

M/M Eugene Popescu, Venice, FL

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Christina Cappon, Chicago, IL
(2 yrs.)

M/M Zack Barbb, Melvindale, MI
George Paian, Amelia, OH
Simon Dragan, Kingsville, MD
(4 yrs.)

M/M Iosif Neagrau, Lilburn, GA
Elena Ionescu, Astoria, NY (2 yrs.)
John Rancu, Long Beach, CA
Alexandria Lupu, Jackson Heights, NY

American Embassy, Bucharest, Romania

Angela Pearce, Lapeer, MI
Embassy of Romania, Washington, DC

Rev. Dimitrie Bodale, Grand Rapids, MI

Rena Doncoglu, Fountain, CO

\$10.00

Mark Chestnut, M/M Paul Comsa, Dan Cutu, Jimmy Crucian, Maria Dantin, Nicolae Fedorovici, Maria Gheordunescu, Julia Kalugar, Rev. Fr. G. Radu, Michael Reed, Roman Stoian.

\$5.00

Anonymous.

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms

- Contes, Theodore William**, son of Philip Contes & Regina Kvitkovich, Falls Church, VA. Protection St. Mary, Dunn Loring, VA. Godparents: Michael W. & Judi Contes.
- Cotosman, Courtney Marie**, daughter of Philip & Cynthia Cotosman, Lombard, IL. St. Mary, Chicago, IL. Godparent: John Kisbac.
- Dinescu, Eugene**, son of George & Carmen Dinescu, Rousvelt Park, NJ. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Dan & Mariana Hutanu.
- Dinescu, Vincent**, son of George & Carmen Dinescu, Rousvelt Park, NJ. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Dan & Mariana Hutanu.
- Dumitrescu, Christina**, daughter of Cleopatra T. C.Mihalache, New York, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY.
- Lake, Peter Regalado**, son of Laura & Regalado Lake, Cleveland, OH. St. Mary, Cleveland, OH. Godparent: Gheorghe Sarsama.
- Marinica, Christopher Daniel**, son of Liviu & Daniela Marinica, Dearborn, MI. Sts. Peter & Paul, Dearborn Hgts., MI. Godparents: Vasile & Viorica Staniciu.
- Mateiuc, William Costel**, son of Costel & Maria A. Mateiuc, Philadelphia, PA. Descent Holy Ghost, Elkins Park, PA. Godparents: Marian Condoi & Linda Peoples.
- Milosan, Nicholas Edward**, son of George Milosan & Mary Dadson, Canton OH. St. George, Canton, OH. Godparent: Sonia Silver.
- Mitchell, Felicha**, daughter of Tony & Jessy Mitchell, Alexandria, VA. Holy Cross, Alexandria, VA. Godparent: Teresa Frank.
- Mitchell, Samantha Peaches**, daughter of Walter & Suzy Mitchell, McLean, VA. Holy Cross, Alexandria, VA. Godparent: Tina Mitchell.
- Montalvan, Katana Michelle**, daughter of Ioan & Marie Montalvan, Providence, RI. St. John, Woonsocket, RI. Godparents: Laura and Dionisie Shola.
- Nestianu, Audrey Christie Emily**, daughter of Dan G. & Cristina M. I. Nestianu, Gilbertville, PA. Descent Holy Ghost, Elkins Park, PA. Godparents: Raluca Vlad & Vergiliu Vlad.
- Novic, Lara Isabelle**, daughter of Alexandru & Lucia Novic, Flushing, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Roman & Wanda Cristali.
- Pereira, Gil Patrice**, son of Jose M. D. S. & Cristina Z. Pereira, New York, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparent: Rodica Zamfirescu.
- Placinta, Michael Aurel**, son of Aurel & Victoria Placinta, Dearborn Hgts., MI. Sts. Peter & Paul, Dearborn Hgts., MI. Godparents: Radu & Camelia Botezatu.
- Popa, Maya Catherine**, daughter of Radu D. & Catrinel I. Popa, Jackson Hgts., NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparent: Nelida Negut.

Rosiuta, David Anthony, son of Mihai & Jenni Rosiuta, Cleveland, OH. Godparents: George & Olimpia Sarsama.

Sprinceana, Ciprian Alexandru, son of Marius & Cristina N. Sprinceana, Queens, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Joana & Bogdan Gheorghiu.

Toma, Amy Jennifer, daughter of David K. & Sharon Toma, Regina, Sask. St. George, Regina, Sask. Godparent: Marilyn Caron.

Toma, Nicole Kacie, daughter of David K. & Sharon Toma, Regina, Sask. St. George, Regina, Sask. Godparent: Marilyn Caron.

Weaver, Megan Carla, daughter of Carl & Jill Weaver, Canton, OH. St. George, Canton, OH. Godparents: Carolyn Recktenwalt & Benton Evans.

Weaver, Meryl Diane, daughter of Carol & Jill Weaver, Canton, OH. St. George, Canton, OH. Godparents: Bruce Moldovan & Julie Baker.

Wing, Kelly Elizabeth, daughter of James & Mary Woo Wing, Sterling Hgts., MI. St. George Cathedral, Southfield, MI. Godparents: Kimberly A. Carson & Trevor Copacia.

Yoanis, Felicha Dorina, daughter of Sam & Penelope L. Yoanis, McLean, VA. Holy Cross, Alexandria, VA. Godparent: Dorina Mitchael.

Received into the Church

Bires, Linda Rae, Sharon, PA. Holy Cross, Hecmitage, PA. Rev. Fr. John Mancantelli. April 1990.

Lemond, Tammy Liza, Assiniboia, Sask. Descent Holy Spirit, Assiniboia, Sask. Rev. Fr. Peter San Filippo. January 18, 1990.

Petrilla, Linda Pearl, Warren, OH. Holy Resurrection, Warren, OH. Rev. Fr. Gregory Becker. April 8, 1990.

Petrilla, Kristen Marie, Warren, OH. Holy Resurrection, Warren, OH. Rev. Fr. Gregory Becker. April 8, 1990.

Prokop, David George, Warren, OH. Holy Resurrection, Warren, OH. Rev. Fr. Gregory Becker. April 8, 1990.

Prokop, Elizabeth Carol, Warren, OH. Holy Resurrection, Warren, OH. Rev. Fr. Gregory Becker. April 8, 1990.

Prokop, Rachael, Lynn, Warren, OH. Holy Resurrection, Warren, OH. Rev. Fr. Gregory Becker. April 8, 1990.

Marriages

Babu, John and Veronica Spau, Charlotte, NC. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Ioan & Maria Cipu.

Lake, Pedro Regalado and Cristina Mariana Sarsama, Cleveland, OH. St. Mary, Cleveland, OH. Godparents: George & Olimpia Sarsama.

Lipan, Niculaie and Elena Gherghe, Flushing, NY. St. Dumitru, New York, NY. Godparents: Mircea & Doina Melesea.

HOUSECLEANING

As anyone who has ever moved knows, getting ready to leave a house is no small job. In fact it can be pretty full! In our case, since we were going for only six months, we needed to leave the house furnished but emptied of our personal belongings, so renters could move into it.

In the months before we left, we had to go through the house room by room and cupboard by cupboard. Our belongings began to fall into four categories: things that would stay, things we would pack away and store, things we would take with us, and things we would throw out or give away. For us it became a super housecleaning.

The big surprise for us was how much we had kept which we no longer needed. It ranged from old broom furniture to outgrown clothes and toys. Some things we threw out and most went to charitable agencies.

Finally, just before we left, we began to feel real pleasure at the new orderliness and lightness of the house. We had a new awareness of what was important and what wasn't. It also gave us a better idea of what we needed to do to improve the house when we return.

In my opinion, it would be a wonderful idea if we could carry out the same kind of process with our beliefs too. What would happen if we were forced to pull out into the daylight our ideas and beliefs about our Church and to examine them one by one? What do we really know and how have we learned it? How many of our ideas come from the partly-understood memo-

ries of our childhood? I have a little example of this. In some places, even in some churches, you can see a representation of the Holy Trinity. Christ is there as a young man, the Holy Spirit is shown as a dove, and God the Father looks like an old man with a white beard. This of course is a terribly inaccurate representation of God the Father, since in fact the Church teaches us that no one has ever seen God the Father. It should shock all of us, but in a childish way it is easy to picture Him looking like that. Would you be more shocked, however, if you saw that God the Father had a black face or an oriental face? What does this say about the depths of our belief that our God is a God for all humanity?

As we cleaned and emptied our house of its non-essentials, we found that we were renewing it at the same time. Surely it was hard work while we were debating over what to keep and what to discard, but it ended up being a very satisfying process.

I think that as we work to renew our faith, we need to find out first what we honestly believe in the depths of our heart and compare those beliefs and attitudes with the Church's teachings. We may find we need to discard some of our ideas and give new priority to others. Then we can begin the process of stretching and deepening our faith in the light of the Church's teachings.

Psa. Nicole Mitescu
Paris, February 1990

Parish Register

Continued from page 16

Mircea, Cornel and Ligia M. M. Pop, Detroit, MI. Sts. Peter & Paul, Dearborn Hgts., MI. Godparents: M/M Mircea & Alexandra Savu.

On, Constantine T. and Lori N. Cantrell, Dallas, TX. Holy Trinity, Youngstown, OH. Godparents: Frank & Molly Copacia.

Schiau, Nick III and Nancy E. Zanzano, Rocky River, OH. St. Mary, Cleveland, OH. Godparents: Daniel L. & Michelle Schiau.

Stanciu, Virgil V. and Margareta C. Vartolomei, Rocky River, OH. St. Mary, Cleveland, OH. Godparents: George & Jean Dobrea.

Stavros, Zenophon and Spiridula Evangelos, Woonsocket, RI. St. John, Woonsocket, RI. Godparents: Evander & Fotini Lomke.

Van, Dorel and Patricia Schiazza, Philadelphia, PA. Descent Holy Ghost, Elkins Park, PA. Godparents: M/M Ionel Gaspar.

Deceased

Andela, Olimpia, 82. St. Dumitru, New York, NY.

Biris, Laurence J., 41. St. Dumitru, NY.

Boland, Pauline, 73. St. Mary, Cleveland, OH.

Cindea, Euphemia F., 92. St. George, Canton, OH.

Dippel, Victoria M., 71. St. George, Canton, OH.

Enachescu, Liliana A., 41. St. Dumitru, New York, NY.

Fletcher, Nicholas, 74. Holy Trinity, Youngstown, OH.

Ghetia, Anna, 98. St. Mary, Cleveland, OH.

Ghioda, Rafira, 87. St. Dumitru, New York, NY.

Golimboski, Natalie, 81. St. George, Regina, Sask.

Kabelen, Lucretia, 86. St. Mary, Cleveland, OH.

Lupusor, Dimitrie, 72. St. Dumitru, New York, NY.

Moga, Nicholas, 89. St. Mary, Cleveland, OH.

Oprish, Mary, 91. Holy Trinity, Youngstown, OH.

Pariza, John, 100. Holy Trinity, Youngstown, OH.

Reitz, Valerie, 70. Presentation Our Lord, Akron, OH.

Robosan, John M., 75. St. George Cathedral, Southfield, MI.

Rotare, Balla A., 87. Sts. Peter & Paul, Dearborn Hgts., MI.

Rusnak, Paul O., 40. St. George, Regina, Sask.

NEW CEMETERY SECTION OPENING

The Episcopate Council, at its March 24, 1990, meeting in Warren, Ohio, heard a report from the Cemetery Study Committee and passed a motion to offer the first 50 (fifty) cemetery plots in the new third section of St. Mary Cemetery, at the present cost of \$500.00 (five hundred) per plot. Each plot is 9' 6" x 4' with a 1' 6" foundation for the headstone.

The committee stated that the price is neither higher nor lower than other cemeteries but is about standard for the area and setting. The uniqueness of its connection with the Episcopate Center, however, indicates more than just "perpetual care" attention. Those buried here are also assured of special respect and attention from the Vatra administration and from the Church which provides regular prayer services at fixed times of the year.

Entrance for the new section is between Iancu Hall and the tower Pavilion going north of the Pomutz Hall and winding behind the old sections. A row of maple trees, long established, delineates the road and the new section. An asphalt drive will lead through the plots dividing them into a southwest section of 18 plots across and a northwest one of 28 across. A turnabout at the far end is for the funeral car.

Although the actual planned number of the combined sections will exceed 600 plots, it is only the first fifty being offered at this time, and these are in the northwest section, the wider section. Two rows of 28 plots each are available.

A long, "running" sidewalk will span the entire length of the plots, and the individual stones will be placed at this 1' 6" foundation. The stones are "headstones" with the feet of the interred toward the east. Sketches of all proposed monuments must be submitted to the Episcopate Office before execution and delivery. Flat markers may be placed on the cemetery foundation only.

The intention is to give stability to the individual markers by placing them on the sidewalk. The extended length should provide additional stability necessary to keep the monuments in erect position. The thrust of the ground does move individual foundations more readily than an extended walkway. In addition, the rising cost of grounds maintenance can be kept down by simplifying the cutting around the many and various monuments to a single line cutting.

The southwest section has been indicated for members of the clergy and their spouses. Plots are given to each; members of the family may wish to purchase their own plots next to their parents.

Inasmuch as the first two rows will be available for use, these are the only sites available at this time. There are 56; choice may be made from these numbers.

Anyone wanting to purchase a lot(s) may use the following form for further information and an application.

Yes, I am interested in more information about cemetery lots at the Vatra. Please send me information and an application form.

Name

Address

City

State/Prov.

Zip

Send to: St. Mary Cemetery, ROEA, 2522 Gro
Tower Rd., Jackson, MI. 49201-9120

FINANCIAL REPORT

EPISCOPATE SUPPORTERS

John Shunda, Fullerton, CA	\$100
George & Nancy Ittu, Cleveland, OH	\$100
Rev. Fr. & Psa. Leonte Copacia, Utica, MI	\$50
Rev. Fr. Constantin Tofan, Southfield, MI	\$30
M/M John Bandu, Warren, MI	\$25
Saveta Buzas, Allen Park, MI	\$25
Rev. Fr. John Ivascu, Southfield, MI	\$25
M/M William Popescu, Las Vegas, NV	\$25
M/M George Jonescu, Capac, MI	\$25
John & Eleanor Bujea, Regina, Sask.	\$20
M/M Peter Grofsorean, Dearborn, MI	\$20
M/M John Badila, Youngstown, OH	\$15
John Rancu, Long Beach, CA	\$15
M/M Eugene Popescu, Venice, FL	\$10

GENERAL DONATIONS

Stelian Stanicel, Hollywood, FL	\$100
Rev. Fr. Romey Rosco, Dearborn Hts., MI	\$15

PARISH DUES

Descent of the Holy Spirit, Ridgewood, NY	\$750
St. George Cathedral, Regina, Sask.	\$580
Holy Trinity, MacNutt, Sask.	\$314

EPISCOPATE SUNDAY

Descent of the Holy Spirit, Elkins Park, PA	\$100
St. Elias, Elwood City, PA	\$100
Holy Cross, Alexandria, VA	\$60
Descent of the Holy Spirit, Ridgewood, NY	\$50
Three Hierarchs, Ridgewood, NY	\$50

LADIES AUXILIARY SUNDAY

Descent of the Holy Spirit, Ridgewood, NY	\$50
Holy Cross, Alexandria, VA	\$50
Three Hierarchs, Ridgewood, NY	\$50
Sts. Michael & Gabriel, Palm Springs, CA	\$50
Sts. Michael & Gabriel, Ft. Wayne, IN	\$35

BISHOP'S VISITATION

St. Mary's, Dallas, TX	\$268
Descent of the Holy Spirit, Ridgewood, NY	\$50

MISSION FUND

Anonymous	\$50
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“UMPLEȚI-VĂ DE DUHUL SFÂNT” (Efeseni 5:18)

Am putea noi mai mult să cerem în ziua Pogorării Duhului Sfânt, decât ca Mângâietorul să ne viziteze din nou? Poate nu chiar cu limbi de foc deasupra capetelor noastre, dar cel puțin să atingă inimile noastre cu focul mistic și să deștepte în ele simțământul prezenței lui Dumnezeu, așa cum a făcut cu cei doi discipoli pe drumul spre Emaus: **“Au nu era inima noastră arzând întru noi, când mergea cu noi pe drum?”** (Lc. 24:32) Nu suntem oare prea îndrăzneți să cerem să avem în noi pe Duhul Sfânt, **“Vistierul Trăirilor?”** Și totuși, Biserica ne învață în fiecare săptămână spunem Duhului Sfânt: **“Vino și te sălășluiește în noi!”** nu numai ne învață, ba chiar ne îndeamnă: **“Umpleți-vă de Duhul Sfânt!”** (Efeseni 5:18).

Are frații noștri din Efes, la auzul acestor cuvinte, oare tot atât de tulburați și confuzați cum suntem noi astăzi? Nu! La vremea aceea, cei însetați de Duhul Sfânt căutau calea trasată de profet: **“Cei ce sunteți însetați, mergeți la apă, și cei care nu aveți argint, mergeți de cumpărați și mâncați, mergeți și cumpărați fără de argint și fără preț vin și grăsime.”** (Isaia 55:1). Se pare însă că noi oamenii astăzi căutăm argintul pentru un lucru care nu hrănește sufletul, ci câștigul muncii pentru ceva ce nu satură . . .” (Isaia 55:2). Apoi ne plângem, nu de slăbiciunea noastră și de incapacitatea de a primi, ci de faptul că Dumnezeu a pus un prea mare preț pe bunurile Sale și ne împarte darurile Duhului Sfânt cu scumpete, nu cu daruri. Ori asta nu-i adevărat, pentru că Domnul zice: **“Vărsa-voi Duhul Meu peste tot trupul și fiicele voastre vor profeta, bătrânii voștri vor vedea. Chiar și tinerii voștri vedenii vor vedea. Chiar și robii și pe roabe voi vărsa Duhul Meu.”** (Ier. 31:1-2). Dacă nu suntem plini de Duhul Sfânt, nu din cauza lipsei harului, care se revarsă din Dumnezeu în fiecare clipă, ci din cauza insuficienței și a incapacității noastre.

A fost o vreme, înainte de pogorârea Sfântului Duh, când Apostolii trimiși de Mântuitorul să povăduiască, făceau minuni: vindecau pe bolnavi, scuturau demonii (Lc. 9, 1&2). **“Și s’au întors cei trimiși cu bucurie, zicând: Doamne, și demonii se supun în numele Tău!”** (Lc. 10:17). Și totuși nu puteau înțelege sursa acestei puteri, nu puteau înțelege în ei între Duhul lui Dumnezeu și duhul lumii, în ei iubirea era amestecată cu ură; deși Iisus venise să mântuiască lumea, Apostolii Iacov și Ioan nu să cheme foc din cer să distrugă niște cetăți samaritanice care nu-L primeau pe Iisus. Isus le-a zis: **“Voi nu știți ai cărui duh sunteți!”** (Lc. 9:55). Același lucru care la început lucra în Apostoli ca o putere minunată și neștiută de ei, s’a manifestat în ziua cinci-

zecimii și i-a umplut de cunoștință și de înțelepciune. Acum însă era așa de clar cunoscut de ei, încât îl puteau deosebi de propriul lor spirit, care lucra conform naturii omenești. În tot Capitolul 7 dela Romani, Sf. Pavel vede cum spiritul cărnii în trupul său lucrează împotriva Duhului dumnezeiesc: **“Nu fac binele pe care îl voiesc, ci răul pe care nu-l voiesc, pe acela îl fac (Rom. 7:19).** Iar în alt loc zice: **“Ceeace am primit noi acum, nu este duhul lumii, ci Duhul lui Dumnezeu, ca să cunoaștem cele dăruite nouă de Dumnezeu”** (1 Cor. 2:12).

Așadar, omul, oricât de liber se socotește — și evident că este liber — totuși se supune prin voința lui proprie, unuia din aceste două principii: duhului lumii acesteia ori Duhului care vine dela Dumnezeu. Depinde ce vrea să aleagă.

Vreau să întrebuițez o parabolă, pentru ilustrarea acestor două principii. Copilul în pântecul mamei are o viață proprie, însă viața lui este implantată în aceea a mamei, depinde întru totul de ea. Așa se întâmplă și cu stagiul vieții omului în stare de natură ori cu acei care vor să-și ducă viața după legile acestei lumi. Atâta vreme cât trăim în trup, suntem înconjurați și stăpâniți de puterea acestei lumi. Acționăm sub impulsul simțurilor, înrobiți de poftele lumești: **“Pofta trupului, pofta ochilor și trufia vieții, care nu sunt dela Tatăl ci sunt din lume”** (1 Ioan, 2:16), **“înstreinați fiind de viața lui Dumnezeu”** (Efes. 4:18).

Însă scopul naturii nu este să păstreze copilul prizonier în pântecul mamei, ci să-l aducă la plinătatea vieții, să vadă lumina, să înțeleagă frumusețea universului și prin ele să cunoască pe Creator. Tot așa este și cu spiritul omului. El are o chemare mai înaltă către eliberarea din robia trupului și a lumii: **“Trebuie să vă nașteți din nou”** (Ioan 3:7). Conform acestui citat, nu intră în intenția lui Dumnezeu să rezerve **“nașterea din nou”** numai pentru câțiva aleși. Este o lege universală, o chemare a întregii omeniri. Viața conform legilor naturii este o pregătire și o cale către **“nașterea din nou.”** În timp ce animalele rămân în captivitatea naturii, oamenii se eliberează. **“Scoate din temniță sufletul meu, ca să mărturisească numele Tău (Ps. 142:8).** Sufletul trebuie să fie luminat cu lumina lui Hristos, să primească Duhul lui Dumnezeu, să respire aerul cerului încă aici pe pământ.

Între nașterea naturală și cea spirituală este o diferență esențială. Una este determinată de necesitatea naturii, iar alta de impulsul liber către Dumnezeu, prin credință în Iisus Hristos. Duhul Sfânt, nu numai că ne umple, ci după cuvântul Scripturii, ne umple și se revarsă. Dumnezeu ne dă mai mult decât putem primi: **“Cine crede în Mine, din pântecul lui vor curge râuri de apă vie . . . , iar aceasta a spus-o despre Du-**

continuare pe pag. 20

DRAGI PRIETENI

Ca Președintă a organizației "AJUTAȚI COPIII ROMÂNIEI", aş vrea să vă împărtăşesc impresiile mele şi să apelez la ajutorul Dumneavoastră.

Mii de copii rămân încă în orfelinatele României, prizonieri de circumstanţă. Unii nu au părinţi şi "aparţin" Statului, alţii sunt acolo pentru că propriile lor familii nu îi pot creşte iar alţii sunt abandonati.

TOȚI, ABSOLUT TOȚI, AU NEVOE DE AJUTOR!

În ziua de 11 Ianuarie 1990, soțul meu Joe și eu, am plecat în România cu intenția de a adopta doi copii. Ne-am întors cu o fetiță frumoasă și sănătoasă. Am dorit să adoptăm și un băiețel de 2 ani, Joey, pe care l-am îndrăgit și care s'a atașat de noi. Cu două zile înainte de plecare, în urma analizelor făcute, am aflat că Joey era infectat cu virusul HIV. Știrea epidemiei de AIDS în România a șocat întreaga lume.

În mintea noastră este încă vie imaginea atâtor copii care își întindeau brațele spre noi, abandonati, nehrăniți, crescând fără îngrijire și fără dragoste. Acești copii sunt victime nevinovate și au nevoie de ajutorul

nostru. Ei au nevoie de cele mai elementare proceduri de igienă și confort. Medicii examinează fără instrumente. Mâncare și vitamine, nu există. Majoritatea medicamentelor sunt date copiilor prin injecții și fără sterilizarea nu este adecvată, microbii, inclusiv cei care cauzează AIDS, se împrăștie cu ușurință.

Copiii se joacă în spații strâmte, pe podele de lemn goale și fără jucării.

În ziua de 27 Aprilie 1990, ABC a prezentat povestea noastră într'un segment al emisiunii "20/20". Suferințele acestor copii ne-a determinat să facem cunoscută situația lor, cu speranța că și alții vor răspunde la aceeași dorință de a ajuta.

Ca Președintă a organizației "AJUTATI COPIII ROMÂNIEI", fac un apel călduros să trimiteți donațiile dumneavoastră, care pot fi deduse din taxe.

"HELP THE CHILDREN OF ROMANIA"

Department 771246
Detroit, MI. 48277-1246

Eforturile noastre comune vor îmbunătăți viața atâtor copii.

Cu o rază de speranță,
Carol Stevens

"UMPLEȚI-VĂ" *continuare dela pag. 19*

hul pe care aveau să-L primească cei care cred în El (Ioan 7,38).

Profeții simțeau atât de puternic prezența Duhului Sfânt în ei, încât se cutremurau: **"Doamne, unde voi fugi dela fața Ta?"** Ps. 138:7). În rugăciunea noastră zilnică, noi zicem Duhului Sfânt: **"Care pretutindenea ești și toate le umpli."** De ce atunci Cel care umple toate nu ne umple și pe noi? De ce nu suntem toți plini de Duhul Sfânt? Desigur, această întrebare trebuie să ne-o punem nouă înșine.

Putem noi oare să fim plini de Duhul Sfânt, când trupul nostru, acest neobosit dușman al spiritului, nu ne mai dă răgaz, stăpânindu-ne prin mâncare, băutură și plăcerea instinctelor? Acestea înăbușe dorința sufletului către înțelegerea cuvintelor lui Dumnezeu. Dumnezeu Pavel ne spune clar: **"Nu vă amăgiți, fraților. Dumnezeu nu se lasă batjocorit; ce va semăna omul, aceea va și secera. Cel ce seamănă în trup, din trup va secera stricăciune; iar cel ce seamănă în Duhul, din Duh va secera viață veșnică"** (Gal. 6:7-8).

Cum putem noi să fim plini de Duhul Sfânt, când suntem atât de plini de noi înșine? N'a mai rămas nici un loc curat în noi. Necurăția este un obstacol care împiedecă intrarea Duhului Sfânt. Unii nu simt lucrarea Duhului, pentru că îl cunosc pe Hristos numai trupest. Iisus încă nu a înviat și nu s'a proslăvit în ei. Și chiar după înviere, Apostolii au trebuit să aștepte cincizeci de zile **"toți într'un cuget, stăruind în rugăciune."** (Fapte 1,14). Abia goliți de cele lumești

putem să primim pe Duhul Sfânt. **"Nu iubiți lumea nici cele ce sunt în lume"** (1 Ioan 2:15). Nu din cauza mâniei lui Dumnezeu, ci din cauza milostivirii Lui. Duhul nu vine, pentru că fiind nevrednici, ne-ar copleși cu focul Lui sfințitor.

Ce să ne facem noi, care suntem morți în Duhul, reci și uscați ca acel câmp de oase din vedenia Profetiei Iezechiel? Să îndrăznim, nădăjduind în rugăciune, să-l rugăm pe Dumnezeu să ne revieze. Dumnezeu nu vrea moartea păcătosului. "Fiul mamei zice Domnul către profet, mai pot oare aceste oase să învieze? — Doamne, numai Tu știi. — Voi pune Duhul meu în voi și veți fi vii și veți cunoaște că Eu sunt Domnul!" (Iez. 37:14).

Arhim. Roman Brăveanu

Al XV-lea Congres al Academiei Româno-Americane de Științe și Arte (ARA)

Între 14 și 18 Iunie a.c. se vor desfășura la Școala Politehnică din Montreal, Quebec, Canada, lucrările celui de al XV-lea Congres anual al Academiei Româno-Americane de Științe și Arte (ARA). Academia, care a luat ființă în 1975, este condusă de un Comitet Executiv având ca Președinte pe profesor Maria Manoliu Manea de la Universitatea California, Vice președinte este scriitorul francez de origine română L.M. Arcade iar secretar general Dl. Miron Butariu.

Congresul de anul acesta se va desfășura sub semnul victoriei luptei poporului român, pentru libertate și democrație.

Sfinții Apostoli Petru și Pavel (29 iunie)

Prof. Cezar Vasiliu-Montreal

În fiecare an la 29 Iunie, Biserica Ortodoxă, ca și Romano-Catolică, sărbătorește pe Sfinții Apostoli Petru și Pavel. Iată evenimentele cele mai de seamă din viața acestora.

f. Petru, cel mai în vârstă dintre Apostolii Domnului, era galileean; Mântuitorul l-a chemat direct la apostolat, împreună cu fratele său, Sf. Andrei și cu doi pescari (Mt. 4,18-19). Vreme de trei ani L-a însoțit Domnul pretutindeni; în Galileea, la Ierusalim, pe drumuri, fiind martorul cuvintelor și faptelor Mântuitorului. Când Iisus i-a întrebat pe ucenici ce cred despre El, Petru a răspuns: „Tu ești Hristos, Fiul lui Dumnezeu Cel viu” (Mt. 16,16), mărturisind astfel încredințarea sa. Când Domnul a vestit patimile și moartea Sa, Petru s’a legat să rămână cu El: „Chiar dacă ar trebui să mor, eu tot nu mă voi lepăda de Tine” (Mt. 26,35), dar s’a lepădat de trei ori, plângând apoi cu lacrimi amare fapta sa. După Înviere mărturisind credința față de Hristos, Acesta L-a iertat și L-a reîntronizat în apostolat: „Simone al lui Ioan . . . paște oile care s’au pierdut” (In. 21,17), devenind o adevărată „piatră” a Bisericii-Petru-stâlp și temelie a ei.

În Dumineca Rusaliilor, Petru vorbește mulțimilor despre Hristos ca Dumnezeu și Mesia (FA 2,14-36), este minunat de ei. Vindecarea unui olog împreună cu Ioan-predică la templu, vorbește înaintea Sinedriului, este întemnițat și apoi eliberat (In. 4,6-21).

În Cezareea Palestinei botează pe sutașul Corneliu, poartă casa lui spre uimirea credincioșilor dintre iudei (FA 10), punând bazele unui principiu misionar foarte important; primirea păgânilor în Biserică direct, prin botez, nu prin circumciziunea mozaică. A predicat în Antiohia (Gal. 2,11) și a stat un timp și în Corint (Cor. 1,12), apoi a mers la Roma, unde a murit ca martir în timpul persecuției lui Nero, la 29 iunie 67, martirizat pe cruce cu capul în jos-la cererea sa-socotind că nu este vrednic să moară ca Mântuitorul. A fost înmormântat pe Calea Triumfală, lângă Vatican, murmurându-se de „prețuirea lumii întregi” — cum scrie Ieronim.

Bazându-se pe o tradiție relativ târzie (sec. IV), Biserica Romano-Catolică îl consideră pe Sf. Petru „episcop”, întâi la Antiohia, apoi la Roma, deși se știe că Sf. Apostoli n’au fost episcopi, ci ei așezau episcopi în cetăți. Cei mai de seamă istorici bisericești sunt: E. H. Rieu, L. Duchesne, F.X. Funk, K. Bihlmeyer, A.M. Braun, J.P. Kirch — recunosc că ceea ce se știe despre Sf. Petru la Roma este că a desfășurat și aici activitate misionară și a murit ca martir sub Nero.

f. Pavel, Apostolul neamurilor, era originar din Tarsus din Cilicia și se numea din botez Saul. A învățat teologia rabinică a lui Gamaliel. N’a cunoscut direct pe Hristos iar în istoria Bisericii creștine apare inițial

ca un persecutor al urmașilor lui Iisus, păzind hainele iudeilor care ucideau cu pietre pe Sf. Ștefan (FA. 7,58) și „suflând cu amenințare și ucidere împotriva ucenicilor Domnului, pustiind Biserica” (FA 8,1-3).

Pe drumul Damascului s’a produs convertirea lui Saul la Hristos prin apariția zăului, în amiază mare, a Mântuitorului, într-o lumină strălucitoare (FA 9,3). Prigonitorul Saul devine Marele Pavel, Apostolul! Este dus la Damasc, botezat de preotul Anania și își începe activitatea de „vas ales” al Domnului, mărturisind că „Acesta (Hristos) este Fiul lui Dumnezeu” (FA 9,20).

Și-a împlinit misiunea apostolică între „neamuri”, adică printre păgâni, cu învoirea celorlalți Apostoli. Iudeu prin naștere și educație, cu instrucție teologică de rabin și zel de fariseu, elenist prin cultură și prin cunoașterea limbii grecești, cetățean roman cu drepturi egale, pe care nu le aveau ceilalți apostoli, Sf. Pavel avea, deci, calități prin care depășea pe ceilalți misionari, fiind înarmat în chip desăvârșit pentru apostolatul creștin.

La Sinodul Apostolic de la Ierusalim din anul 50, Sf. Pavel a obținut ca păgânii creștinați să nu mai treacă prin obligativitatea legii mozaice (circumciziunea), ci să se ferească de cele jertfite idolilor, de sânge, de animalele sugrumate și de desfrânare” (FA 15,29).

În lucrarea sa misionară, Sf. Pavel s’a adresat inițial comunităților iudaice, apoi lumii greco-romane, mai ales cea de la orașe. De cum forma comunitatea creștină locală, păstra legătura prin epistole sau trimiși, ca și cu Biserica Mamă din Ierusalim, unde trimetea ajutoarele de la comunitățile înființate. A fost ajutat și de colaboratori destoinici, ca episcopii Tit în Creta și Timotei în Efes, numiți de el.

Sf. Apostol Pavel rămâne în istoria Bisericii Creștine și prin cele **trei călătorii misionare**, în cadrul cărora a răspândit credința creștină până în sudul Dunării: **prima**, între anii 45-58, în Cipru, Pamfilia, Pisidia și Licaonia; **a doua**, între anii 51-54, în Siria, Cilicia, Galatia, Frigia, Misia, Troa, Macedonia și Grecia; **a treia**, între anii 54-58, în Efes Macedonia și Iliria.

Revenind la Ierusalim în anul 58, este arestat și trimis în Cezareea Palestinei, unde rămâne închis doi ani, se apără în fața lui Irod Agripa II și face apel-ca cetățean roman-la Cezarul Romei (FA 21). Aici este închis din nou doi ani, între 61-63, apoi ajunge ca misionar până în Spania.

În anul 67 este din nou întemnițat la Roma, unde moare ca martir la 29 iunie 67-în aceeași zi cu Sf. Petru-tâindându-i-se capul și fiind înmormântat pe via Ostia.

Prin Epistolele sale, Sf. Pavel a făcut începutul teologiei creștine Nimeni dintre creștinii învățați n’a scris mai clar și mai adânc decât el despre mântuirea

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PROCLAMAȚIA DELA TIMIȘOARA

1. Revoluția dela Timișoara nu a fost numai anticeaușistă ci și anticomunistă. Idealul Revoluției a fost reînnoirea la valorile autentice ale democrației și civilizației europene.

2. La Revoluția dela Timișoara au participat toate categoriile sociale. Suntem categoric împotriva tehnicii, tipic comuniste, de dominație prin învrăjbirea claselor și categoriilor sociale.

3. La Revoluție au luat parte oameni de toate vârstele.

4. Pentru victoria Revoluției s-au jertfit alături de români și maghiari, germani, sârbi și alte minorități.

5. Una din lozincile Revoluției a fost: "Vrem Alegeri Libere!" Am fi acceptat și partidul comunist dacă nu ar fi fost compromis, degenerând în fascism roșu.

6. Propunem ca prima nomenclatură să fie aleasă numai pentru 2 ani.

7. Timișoara a pornit Revoluția împotriva întregului regim comunist și nicidecum pentru a servi ascensiunea politică a unui grup de dizidenți anti-ceaușisti din interiorul partidului comunist.

8. Propunem ca legea electorală să interzică pentru primele trei legislaturi consecutive, dreptul de candidatură a foștilor activiști comuniști. Președintele României trebuie să fie simbolul despărțirii de comunism.

9. Timișoara nu a făcut Revoluția pentru salarii mari; pentru aceasta era suficientă o grevă.

10. Nu vom avea niciodată pluralism politic, pluralism economic.

NOTA REDACȚIEI

Acesta este un foarte scurt rezumat al Proclamației. Din lipsă de spațiu nu putem publica textul în întregime. Numeroase personalități și organizații, alături de aproximativ 4 milioane de persoane, au aderat prin semnături la această proclamație.

Cine dorește să adere prin semnătura sa la această Proclamație, să se adreseze Bisericii Sf. Maria de Cleveland, la următoarea adresă:

Rev. Fr. Remus Grama
3256 Warren Rd.
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

COMUNICAT DE PRESA^x

Sfântul Sinod al Bisericii Ortodoxe Române, luând în examinare numeroasele memorii și cereri ale preoților, mînăstirilor și credincioșilor din cuprinsul Patriarhiei Române, prin care se exprimă dorința ca Prea Fericitul Părinte Patriarh Teoctist să revină în scaunul patriarhal și analizînd și alte opinii exprimate, în ședința din 4 aprilie 1990, a hotărît, în unanimitate, să-l recheme pentru a prelua președinția Sfîntului Sinod și celelalte atribuții legate de slujirea de Patriarh al României.

Hotărîrea se întemeiază și pe faptul că Sfîntul Sinod, în unanimitate, în ședința din 18 ianuarie 1990, pe temeuri canonice, nu a acceptat retragerea Prea Fericitului Patriarh, ci doar a respectat dorința sa bazată pe motive de sănătate.

La această se adaugă faptul că întrucît și-a refăcut sănătatea, Prea Fericitul Patriarh și-a dat acordul de a reveni să-și îndeplinească îndatoririle de arhipăstor care, potrivit canoanelor și legiurilor Bisericii Ortodoxe Universale, nu trebuie să părăsească turma duhovnicească.

Revenirea Prea Fericitului Părinte Patriarh Teoctist la slujirea sa de Întîistătător al Bisericii Ortodoxe Române este conformă cu rînduiala canonică a Patriarhiei Române în raporturile ei cu celelalte Biserici, Ortodoxe Autocefale surori din lume.

Nu se poate omite nici faptul că unele dintre acestea și-au pus întrebări asupra canonicității și legalității

bisericești a retragerii sale, continuînd să-l pomenească la slujbe ca Întîistătător al Bisericii Ortodoxe Române.

Sfîntul Sinod este încredințat că această hotărîre contribuie la întărirea unității Bisericii strămoșești și consolidarea activității de slujire pastorală misionară atît de necesară astăzi.

SFINTUL SINOD AL BISERICII ORTODOXE ROMANE

X) Testul poate fi transmis numai integral

Sfinții Apostol *continuare dela pag. 21*

prin credință, despre Sf. taine, despre lucrarea Bisericii a episcopilor și preoților, despre datoritățile soților, copiilor, stăpînitorilor, supușilor, despre îndurarea suferinței sau despre viața cea de după moarte. despre predica sa orală, Sf. Ioan Gură de Aur scrie: "Precum întunericul este alungat de razele soarelui, așa răsare iar fiarele și hoții se ascund, așa prin predică tunătoare a lui Pavel rățăcirile au fost alungate; adevărul descoperit, idolatriile, bețiile, adulterele și lucrurile dezgustătoare s'au desfăcut și s'au nimicit."

Marele Pavel a avut darul vorbirii în limbi străine, proorocirii, al vindecării de boli; "a înviat din morți pe tânărul Eutih din Troia, a fost răpit cu duhul pe la al treilea cer și a fost învrednicit de Domnul să văd frumusețea raiului înainte de moarte."

continuare pe pag.

CONSACRAREA BISERICII SF. MARIA, DALLAS

area majoritate a primilor români care au venit în Statele Unite, s'au așezat în regiunea Marilor Lacuri; un număr restrâns s'a dus în Omaha, Nebraska și în Florida.

anii din urmă însă, mulți emigranți români s'au mutat în Texas, Dallas și mai ales Houston.

autorităților unui șir de împrejurări și coincidențe, acești români s'au întâlnit cu Părintele Gheorghe și Preoteasa Elena Preda și împreună au hotărât să aibă o biserică în care să se slujească în limba română. La început serviciile divine au avut loc în casa Prof. Constantin Corbănu, apoi la diverse biserici.

În timpul s'au adunat fonduri și cu eforturi mari s'au cumpărat un loc, ca apoi să se afle că orașul nu permite construirea unei clădiri din prefabricate. Mai târziu s'a cumpărat o biserică protestantă, împrumutând suma considerabilă dela Bancă.

Sacrificiile și eforturile personale ale Părintelui Preda au unit toți credincioșii și astfel visul a început să devină realitate.



Președintele Clerului trece pe langa copiii care poartă roze în brate.

NOTA REDACȚIEI

Urmând tradiția "SOLIEI" de a prezenta cititorilor informații despre comunitatea noastră și Episcopie, numărul din luna Februarie am publicat un articol din ziarul "LIBERTATEA" în care se vorbea despre spiritul de reînnoire al Bisericii în România și practica veche de creștinare a preoților.

Am găsit că articolul "Romanian Returns" din "CHICAGO SUN", publicat în Solia din luna Mai, referă la întoarcerea Patriarhului Teoctist, a avut valoare informativă.

Publicăm în acest număr un comunicat de presă al Sinodului din București, care explică reînnoirea Patriarhului Teoctist. Publicăm acest "Press Release" în acest număr al "Soliei," menționând că este prezentă element cu valoare informativă. În felul acesta, acțiunile Bisericii din România se fac cunoscute credincioșilor din Nord America, cu atât mai mult cu cât unitatea română ortodoxă cunoaște și vechile acțiuni ale Sf. Sinod.

Episcopia noastră a tradus acest "Press Release" și în limba engleză și îl publicăm, așa cum am subliniat, cu scopul de a ne informa cititorii.

† Nathaniel

Vineri 11 Mai, P.S. Episcopul Nathaniel și un sobor de preoți au început ceea ce urma să fie un weekend de rugăciune. Vineri seara, Vecernia s'a slujit în Sala Socială.

Consacrarea noii Biserici a avut loc Sâmbătă 12 Mai, pentru a da prilej mai multor credincioși să fie prezenți alături de români. Au venit greci, ruși, antiohieni și Părintele Richard Grabowski a venit din Warren, Ohio să participe la consacrare. Noua Biserică Sf. Maria se află în Colleyville, o suburbie a Dallasului.



P.Sa Episcopul Nathaniel predicand după consacrare. La stanga, par. Gheorghe Preda, parohul Bisericii; la dreapta, Par. Richard Grabowski, Warren, Ohio.

Sfinții Apostoli

continuare dela pag. 22

Meritele Sf. Pavel sunt enorme: a înrădăcinat creștinismul în lumea greco-romană și l-a întărit și la Roma; l-a eliberat de servitutea iudaică și i-a asigurat universalismul; a lăsat Bisericii universale o frumoasă experiență de misiune, organizare și viață creștină.

Sf. Apostoli Petru și Pavel, propovăduitori ai spiritualității creștine și dascăli ai Adevărului veșnic, sunt părinții noștri duhovnicești, pentru că ne renasc în Hristos prin învățătura ortodoxă și prin viața îngerească, modelul vieții noastre creștine. Sf. Petru ne poruncește clar "Fiți sfinți, prin purtarea voastră, după Sfântul care v-a chemat, adică după Dumnezeu, care ne-a creat după chipul și asemănarea Sa" (I Petru 1,5) iar Sf. Pavel, punându-se pe sine pildă, îndeamnă "Urmați mie, precum Eu lui Hristos" (I Cor. 10,1).

Biserica Ortodoxă consideră pe toți Apostolii egali, fiind aleși direct de Hristos. Despre Sf. Petru și Pavel, Sf. Sofronie al Ierusalimului scrie "Pe acești doi Apostoli însuși Hristos i-a unit într-o armonie perfectă și i-a împodobit cu un singur har. Cei care ne-au născut pe noi întru Hristos s'au pronunțat că a despărți pe acești doi Apostoli unul de altul nu este un lucru fără de primejdie."

Sfinților Apostoli Petru și Pavel, rugați-vă lui Hristos pentru mântuirea sufletelor noastre!

INVITATIE LA CONGRESUL ANUAL AL BISERICILOR JOI 28 IUNIE - DUMINICĂ 1 IULIE, 1990 LA VATRA ROMANEASCĂ

JOI 28 IUNIE:

8:30 a.m. — Invocare
9:00 a.m. — Conferința Clerului
5:00 p.m. — Vecernie
6:00 p.m. — Cină
7:00 p.m. — Prezentare

VINERI 29 IUNIE:

8:00 a.m. — Liturghie
9:30 p.m. — Conferința Clerului
3:30 p.m. — Consiliu Episcopesc
5:00 p.m. — Vecernie
6:00 p.m. — Cină
7:00 p.m. — HELP FOR ROMANIA
(prezentare)

SÂMBĂTĂ 30 IUNIE:

8:00 a.m. — Inregistrarea delegaților
8:30 a.m. — Invocare
9:00 a.m. — Congres
5:00 p.m. — Vecernie
6:00 p.m. — Cină
7:00 p.m. — Program artistic urmat de dans

DUMINICĂ 1 IULIE:

9:00 a.m. — Utrenie
10:00 a.m. — Procesiune și Liturghie Arhierească
1:00 p.m. — Banchet festiv și Program artistic

GAZDĂ: Sf. Maria, Cleveland, Ohio

ORGANIZATORI: Organizațiile auxiliare ale Episcopiei

COR: Catedrala Sf. Gheorghe, Southfield, Michigan

Informații despre hotelurile din vecinătatea Vetrei, au fost publicate în Solia pe luna Aprilie.

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Reamintim tuturor celor care trăiesc în Detroit și împrejurimi, că în fiecare Duminică Dimineată, la Stația de Radio WNZK, pe lungimile de undă 690 AM, între orele 8:00 și 9:00 AM se transmite Ora Ortodoxă (the Orthodox Hour).

Această emisiune este transmisă de Episcopia Ortodoxă Română dela Vatra păstorită de Prea Sfinția Sa Episcopul Nataniel și sprijinită financiar de Bisericile Ortodoxe din regiunea Detroitului.

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15 August, 1990

Marti, 14 August

6:30 PM: Slujba Prohodului Maicii Domnului
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Miercuri, 15 August

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